

**Opening Statement of Chairman Walden
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
“Oversight of the Federal Communications Commission”
July 25, 2018**

(As prepared for delivery)

Thank you, Madame Chairman. I thank the chair for her leadership on these topics, specifically what she highlighted on improving our emergency alert and 9-1-1 services, as well as her outreach to the minority on the NTIA Reauthorization.

The Commission’s efforts in wildfire and hurricane response, and its focus on emergency alerts and implementing improved call-routing and location accuracy, are key priorities for all of us.

The last time the Commission testified before us, the subcommittee had just marked up RAY BAUM’S Act – an effort to reauthorize the FCC for the first time in over two decades. Thanks to the hard work of all of you, we were able to incorporate provisions from 18 bipartisan bills, and now RAY BAUM’S Act is law.

I look forward to hearing about the FCC’s progress implementing this important law, such as the broadcast repack.

Let me also thank my friend Chairman Pai for his visit to Oregon last month. The Chairman got a little taste of our country’s 7th largest congressional district. We traveled to see a variety of small businesses, including broadcasters, ISPs, co-ops, as well as visiting with our public safety professionals. It is so important for policymakers to do these roadtrips to hear directly from folks impacted by our policy decisions every day.

Commissioner O’Rielly and I have recently had conversations about the uphill challenge facing our radio industry. Radio, as you well know, is my origin story, it’s close to my heart and where I came from.

That fraternity of voices is sharing in the same fate as newspapers, which never gained the benefits of cross ownership relief supported by the Commission some fifteen years ago – entities captured once again by

regulations from another time. We seem trapped in this constant time warp that regulations of the 1970s, or the 1930s for that matter, somehow work for the present day or beyond.

We'll discuss the changing media landscape today too, another sector that 'edge providers' are disrupting, which is great news. It's yet another example why I put the call out a year ago, and then again a few months ago, that tech CEOs should come here and share their concerns and recommendations on a range of topics.

The rhetoric around these issues have become like watching the opening of an old television show, waiting to get to the main programming. We sit here and listen to the same old falsehoods that we ripped away privacy and net neutrality protections, while the reality is all we have done is restore a bipartisan equilibrium and regulatory framework that existed just three years ago. We unfortunately can't hit "*skip intro*" the way you can on Netflix.

In this committee room, we do have the benefit of hearing our critics speak out loud, though, unlike the other corrosive voices that seek to destroy our daily discourse. As Chairman Pai knows all too well, be fearful if you are a conservative and let your views be known.

Chairman Pai has not only had his positions criticized – which is fair for all of us – however, what is appalling is the way his personal life has been destroyed. He can't go to dinner the way you and I take for granted, nor does he have the ability to enjoy the peace of his own home – these everyday experiences should be sacred for any man or woman with young children.

And yet, too much silence from certain quarters. I sincerely hope that the tone for our modern public square will change for the better. With that said, I thank Chairman Blackburn and yield back.